

Site Priority Recommendation

The author of this report recommends that Matthiessen and Hegeler Zinc Company (ILO 000064782) be assigned a High priority status rating. This recommendation is based on findings of a CERCLA Integrated Site Assessment inspection conducted on December 14 and 15, 1993, and takes into account factors such as the presence of contaminants at the site and their threat to the various migration pathways of concern and contamination found in residential soil samples collected near the Matthiessen and Hegeler property.

No groundwater samples were collected during the inspection but previous monitoring well samples collected during a November, 1991 CERCLA Screening Site Inspection of Carus Chemical Company indicate local groundwater contamination. The city of La Salle draws all their drinking water from a cluster of sand and gravel wells located approximately 3700 feet south of the property and all drinking water within a four mile radius is obtained from groundwater.

On-site exposure is a concern since contaminants were found to be present in shallow soil samples collected at the site. Access to the site is limited by fencing and the Little Vermilion River but access is possible through holes in the fence and during site reconnaissance visits and inspection trespassers were observed. The property appears to be especially attractive to children who have a number of bike

paths on the property and were seen playing in the Little Vermilion River during a summer of 1993 site visit. Soil samples collected on the Matthiessen and Hegeler property indicate that there are areas that contain significant levels of volatiles, semivolatiles, pesticides, tentatively identified compounds and metals. The samples were collected at depths ranging from two to twenty-four inches. The total depth of soil contamination is unknown.

Soil samples collected in residential and school yards near the Matthiessen and Hegeler property indicate that there are a number of metallic contaminants present. These substances were found in samples collected at a depth of zero to two inches and suggest that there is widespread heavy metal contamination in the area. The total depth of the contamination is unknown but is believed to be shallow since it was probably deposited by the wind and the nature of the substances is to migrate very slowly through the soil.

The surface drainage from most of the Matthiessen and Hegeler Zinc Company property would be into surface water with the Probable Point of Entry being into the Little Vermilion River which forms the properties' eastern boundary. The surface pathway would include 1.2 miles in the Little Vermilion River and approximately 13.8 miles in the Illinois River, both of which are considered fishing waterways. Sediment samples collected during the inspection in the Little Vermilion River indicate that there are significant levels of pesticides and heavy metals in the wetland area

along the eastern side of the Matthiessen and Hegeler Zinc Company property. No air samples were collected during the

December 14 and 15, 1993 CERCLA Integrated Site Assessment inspection but the shallow depth at which contamination was found on the property and in residential yards suggest that the potential exists for wind born contamination to exist during dry and dusty conditions.